

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were originally filed in this application.

No claims have been cancelled.

No claims are added.

Without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 9-20 are currently withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected inventions.

As a result, claims 1-8 are pending for examination, with claims 1 and 5 being in independent form. No new matter has been added.

Election/Restriction

After examination of all the claims in a first Office Action dated June 28, 2007, Restriction to one of the following inventions has been required:

Group I, including claims 1-8, which are drawn to a method of treating water;

Group II, including claims 9-17 are drawn to a method of producing purified water;
and

Group III, including claims 18-20 are drawn to a method using ion exchange material.

To expedite prosecution of this application, Applicants elect with traverse, and for examination purposes only, the invention of Group I including claims 1-8.

Restriction is allegedly appropriate because there would be a serious burden on searching and examining if restriction were not required.

Applicants disagree that examination of claims 1-20 now creates undue effort because searching and examination of these claims has already been performed.¹

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and alternatively, respectfully request reconsideration and redefining the restriction requirement into two groups, the first group including claims 1-17 and the second group including claims 18-20.

¹ Search and review has been performed in the corresponding international application, and brought to the Examiner's attention by way of an Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 19, 2005.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, this application is in condition for allowance; a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/2762.

Favorable action is hereby requested. Should any questions arise concerning the foregoing, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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Siemens Ref. No.: 2003P86279US
LLA Ref. No.: I0168-708119

Date: September 19, 2008